

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending in the application. Claims 1-15 have been variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 1-16 have herein been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce the subject matter of claims 1-16 in a subsequent action.

Applicant has herein added the new claims 17-31 to clarify the three-party aspect of at least one embodiment of the present invention, wherein an independent business entity maintains and manages an e-supply chain framework established between at least two other independent business entities. No combination of the cited art teach or suggests this feature of the present invention. No new matter has been added. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the present invention.

For at least the reasons stated herein, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, and asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

2. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

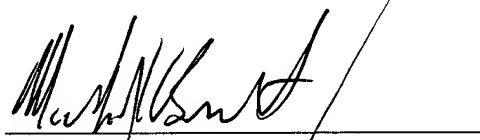
Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Feidelson (US Patent 6,345,261). Applicant respectfully opposes these rejections. MPEP 2143 provides in part, "To establish a prima facie case of obviousness...the prior art reference...must teach or suggest **all** the claim limitations." (emphasis added). Because the cited references alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's §103 rejections also be withdrawn.

With respect to new claims 17-31, the invention has been clarified to claim the invention as a three-party system. No combination of Feidelson and other art teaches or suggests this feature of the present invention as claimed by newly added claims 16-30. Therefore, Applicant respectfully suggests that the claims are now in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner to withdraw its rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (650) 320-4104. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference 60021-336701).

Respectfully submitted,



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